



# Tennessee News Release

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In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

## TENNESSEE CORN ACREAGE EXPECTED TO SOAR IN 2012

**NASHVILLE, March 30, 2012** – Spring has “sprung” in Tennessee earlier than normal this year and farmers have just revealed their planting intentions for 2012. According to a USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service report, corn acreage is expected to rise to the highest level in over 25 years. Furthermore, this report, based on a March 1 farmer survey, indicated less acreage to be devoted to cotton, soybeans and hay. Tobacco acreage is slated to rise above the weather- reduced acreage of the past few years. The State Director, Debra Kenerson, stated, “These acreage projections are intended to reflect growers’ plans as of March 1. Changes in prices, production costs, and weather conditions will be factors in determining what farmers actually plant this year.”

The March 1 survey showed the following results: **Corn** acreage, up 20 percent from last year to 950,000 acres; **Soybeans**, down 4 percent to 1.24 million acres; **Cotton** 420,000 acres, down 15 percent; **Tobacco** up 9 percent; and **Hay** down to 1.79 million acres. **Wheat** seedings last fall totaled 440,000 acres, up 5 percent from last year.

Planted Acreage, Tennessee and United States, 2010-2011 and Intended 2012

Crop	2010	2011	2012 <sup>1</sup>	2012/2011	2010	2011	2012 <sup>1</sup>	2012/2011
Tennessee					United States			
	1,000 Acres		Percent		1,000 Acres		Percent	
Corn	710	790	950	120	88,192	91,921	95,864	104
Cotton, all	390	495	420	85	10,974.2	14,732.4	13,155.0	89
Hay <sup>2</sup>	1,965	1,880	1,790	95	59,862	55,633	57,348	103
Soybeans	1,450	1,290	1,240	96	77,404	74,976	73,902	99
Tobacco, all <sup>2</sup>	22.3	22.0	24.0	109	337.5	324.8	318.0	98
Dark fired-cured	6.20	6.90	6.90	100	15.65	16.40	15.95	97
Burley	15.0	14.0	16.0	114	97.6	88.9	94.7	107
Dark air-cured	1.1	1.1	1.1	100	5.5	5.5	5.1	93
Winter Wheat	260	420	440	105	37,335	40,646	41,709	103

<sup>1</sup> Intended for 2012. <sup>2</sup> Acres harvested.

### U.S. SUMMARY

**Corn** growers intend to plant 95.9 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2012, up 4 percent from last year and 9 percent higher than in 2010. If realized, this will represent the highest planted acreage in the United States since 1937 when an estimated 97.2 million acres were planted.

**Soybean** planted area for 2012 is estimated at 73.9 million acres, down 1 percent from last year and down 5 percent from 2010. Compared with 2011, planted area is down or unchanged across the Corn Belt and Great Plains with the exceptions of Illinois, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

**All wheat** planted area is estimated at 55.9 million acres, up 3 percent from 2011. The 2012 winter wheat planted area, at 41.7 million acres, is up 3 percent from last year but down 1 percent from the previous estimate. Of this total, about 29.9 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 8.4 million acres are Soft Red Winter, and 3.5 million acres are White Winter. Area planted to other spring wheat for 2012 is estimated at 12.0 million acres, down 3 percent from 2011. Of this total, about 11.3 million acres are Hard Red Spring wheat. Durum planted area for 2012 is estimated at 2.22 million acres, up 62 percent from the previous year.

**All cotton** planted area for 2012 is expected to total 13.2 million acres, 11 percent below last year. Upland acreage is expected to total 12.9 million acres, down 11 percent from 2011. American Pima acreage is expected to total 270,000 acres, down 12 percent from 2011.

**Tobacco:** United States all tobacco area for harvest in 2012 is expected to total 317,950 acres, down 2 percent from 2011. Expected decreases in flue-cured, fire-cured, and dark-air cured offset increases in light-air cured and cigar types. Burley tobacco, at 94,700 acres, is 7 percent above last year. If realized, this will be the second lowest burley acreage on record. Fire-cured tobacco, at 15,950 acres, is down 3 percent from 2011. Dark air-cured tobacco, at 5,100 acres, is down 7 percent from last year.